* The applicant should not be more than 45 years of age as on 1st January. However for Lady Doctors the age limit is 50 years.

* The applicant must be physically fit and able to withstand the harsh climate and living conditions and the long duty hours in Saudi Arabia.

* The applicant should hold a *permanent* post in his/her cadre.

* The applicant who have been deputed thrice or more in the past, *are not eligible*. This condition does not apply to female Doctors.

B. Desirable Qualifications:

* Due weightage will be given to applicants having knowledge of regional languages.

* Weigtage also will be given to the specialists such as Cardiologists, Gynaecologists. ENT Specialists and Physicians. However, Professors, Directors of Hospitals and persons holding senior positions *need not apply*. Pathologists, Anesthetists. Psychiatrists, Microbiologists also *need not apply*.

N.B. ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH PROPER CHANNEL. APPLICATIONS SENT DIRECTLY WILL BE REJECTED.

Indians in Pakistani jails

2277. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian civilian/military personnel languishing in Pakistani jails during the last three years and the number thereof, released till date by them;

(b) the number of Pakistani civilian/military personnel confined in Indian jails during the above mentioned period and the number thereof released till date by Indian Government;

(c) whether further release of prisoners from jails of both sides figured in the recently held talks between Indian Prime Minister with his Pakistani counterpart; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) As per available information, approximately 900 Indian civilian prisoners including 54 PoWs are believed to be in Pakistani jails since the last three years. In the year 2002, no Indian prisoner was released by the Pakistani authorities. In 2003 and 2004, the Pakistani authorities released 38 and 36 prisoners respectively. (These figures exclude the released fishermen.) Pakistan has never acknowledged the presence of Indian Prisoners of War in its custody.

(b) As per available information, approximately 300 Pakistani civilian prisoners are in detention and going through various stages of legal process. India released 6 Pakistani civilian prisoners in the year 2002 followed by 21 and 58 respectively in 2003 and 2004. In addition, consular access was granted to 14 Pakistani civilian prisoners in 2002, 84 in 2003 and 135 in 2004.

(c) and (d) Government of India, through diplomatic channels, has been consistently taking up the matter of release/repatriation of prisoners with the Pakistan Government. The issue was taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi on September 4, 2004 as well as during the visit to India by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 23-24, 2004. Consular access to more prisoners, and release of those whose nationalities have been confirmed after such access, is in process.

Indo-Japan co-operation

2278. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister of India and Japan have agreed to set-up a multi-disciplinary graph to enhance economic ties focusing on trade, investment and information technology;

(b) whether Prime Minister also desires to have a joint grouping of India, Japan, South Korea and China for pursuing economic co-operation; and

(c) if so, by when above mentioned groups are expected to be set up indicating what support/response India received from countries mentioned above for increasing bilateral trade and investment in our country?